

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 ACDA-07 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07
CIAE-00 SP-02 /049 W

-----041808Z 024707 /43

R 041606Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6162
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03949

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, BE, US, GW
SUBJECT: HOUSE ARMED SERVICES STAFFDEL VISIT TO EUROPE
RE PROPOSED EUCOM RELOCATION

REFS: (A) STATE 043642 DTG 261941Z FEB 77
(B) BONN 02586 (EXDIS--NOTAL)
(C) BONN 00059 (EXDIS--NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, EMBOFF VISITED STUTTGART ON
MARCH 3 TO PROVIDE A POLITICAL BRIEFING TO THE HOUSE
ARMED SERVICES STAFFDEL. THIS BRIEFING REPEATED MAIN
POINTS CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C: I.E.

(A) THE NEED TO CONSULT WITH THE FRG PRIOR TO ANY
FIRM U.S. DECISION BEING MADE TO COLLOCATE;

(B) THE NEED TO JUSTIFY THE MOVE TO THE FRG IN
TERMS OF STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES TO THE COMMON DEFENSE;

(C) THE NEED TO COUNTER THE INEVITABLE CHARGE THAT
THE AMERICAN ACTION CONFIRMS OUR INTENT TO USE WEST
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GERMAN TERRITORY AS A BATTLEGROUND IN CASE OF WAR WITH
THE SOVIET UNION;

(D) THE NEED FOR THE FRG TO HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS
WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES THE ECONOMIC LOSS WHICH STUTTGART
AND LAND BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WOULD SUFFER FROM THE MOVE.

(E) THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE ALLEGED "AMERICANIZATION OF SHAPE" THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM COLLOCATION, AN ISSUE OF CONCERN NOT ONLY TO THE FRG BUT TO ALL OF OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES AS WELL.

EMBOFF CONCLUDED BY STATING THE EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT ALL OF THESE NEEDS COULD BE MET PROVIDED THE U.S. DISCUSSED THE SUBJECTS WITH THE FRG IN A TIMELY FASHION. WHILE SIGNIFICANT, THE PROBLEM WHICH COLLOCATION WOULD POSE TO OUR RELATION WITH THE FRG APPEARED MANAGEABLE AND NOT OF THE SAME ORDER OF MAGNITUDE AS THOSE VIS-A-VIS BELGIUM.

2. STAFFDEL APPEARED TO ACCEPT THAT THESE WERE GENUINE ISSUES WHICH MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE FRG. MOST OF THEIR QUESTIONS CONCERNED THE OPTIMUM TIME FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE. EMBOFF ARGUED THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY AND IN PARALLEL WITH SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WHICH WOULD BE HELD WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (AND PERHAPS IN NATO AS WELL). TWO EXTREMES HAD TO BE AVOIDED. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE FRG OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A POSITION IN FAVOR OF COLLOCATION AND A DETERMINATION HAD BEEN MADE THAT THE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

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SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE WERE WE TO APPROACH THE FRG (OR ANY OTHER NATO GOVERNMENT) AND EXPEND POLITICAL CAPITAL BY UNDERTAKING DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING A MOVE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE IF WE WERE UNILATERALLY TO ABANDON THE PROJECT LATER ON BECAUSE IT LACKED AMERICAN SUPPORT.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBOFF NOTED THAT THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION IN FAVOR OF COLLOCATION SINCE STATE AND DEFENSE WERE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. ASSUMING THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS LED TO A USG POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE MOVE, THE NEXT STEP WOULD SEEM TO BE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THOSE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED. IF THEIR REACTION WAS FAVORABLE, DISCUSSIONS SHOULD THEN BE HELD WITH THE GERMAN AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT WAITING FOR FORMAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL. HOPEFULLY, THAT WOULD AVOID THE OTHER EXTREME OF WAITING SO LONG THAT THE ALLIES MOST CONCERNED LEARNED ABOUT THE MOVE FROM THE PRESS.

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4. STAFFDEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND STATED THAT THEY NOW HAD SOME IDEA OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS SUCH A MOVE WOULD POSE HERE IN THE FRG. PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL IN GERMANY, THEY HAD NOT REALIZED THAT PROBLEMS DID EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY.

5. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STAFFDELS' PREFERENCE, THE BRIEFING WAS INFORMAL AND ON A DISCUSSION, QUESTION/ANSWER BASIS. NO FORMAL PRESENTATION WAS MADE.
CASH

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